

KANSAS COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS



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From left to right: Larry Gill, liaison to soldiers for Homes for Our Troops, Matt and Audrie Amos with their daughters, Carl Harris, Chair of the Wichita Area Home Builders Care Foundation, and Gregg Burden, Executive Director of Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs, joined forces for groundbreaking Saturday, March 30th, on the Amos' future house site near Mount Hope, KS.

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COMMISSION NOTES

The next KCVA Commission Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 15, 2013**, at **10:00 AM** at the **Kansas Veterans' Home**, Winfield, KS. Any changes will be posted to our website.

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UPCOMING ENHANCED MOBILE UNIT VISITS:

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| ✦ Garnett Dollar General - Parking Lot | May 7, 11 am - 6 pm |
| ✦ Pleasanton Dollar General - Parking Lot | May 8, 11 am - 6 pm |
| ✦ Girard Dollar General - Parking Lot | May 9, 11 am - 6 pm |
| ✦ Andover Atwoods - Parking Lot | May 13, 11 am - 6 pm |
| ✦ Mulvane American Legion - Parking Lot | May 14, 11 am - 6 pm |
| ✦ Arkansas City Dollar General - Parking Lot | May 15, 11 am - 6 pm |
| ✦ Sedan Dollar General - Parking Lot | May 16, 11 am - 6 pm |
| ✦ Marion Senior Center - Parking Lot | May 20, 12 pm - 6 pm |
| ✦ Cottonwood Falls Dollar General - Parking Lot | May 21, 12 pm - 6 pm |
| ✦ Lyndon Dollar General - Parking Lot | May 22, 11 pm - 6 pm |
| ✦ Burlington Dollar General - Parking Lot | May 23, 11 am - 6 pm |
| ✦ Yates Center Dollar General - Parking Lot | May 29, 11 am - 6 pm |
| ✦ Neodesha Dollar General - Parking Lot | May 30, 11 am - 6 pm |

KANSAS VETERAN RECEIVES HOME THROUGH HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

In June 2011, Marine Sergeant James (Matt) Amos was three months into his third deployment in Afghanistan when he lost both of his legs and broke his pelvis in an IED explosion. The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, was performing a “sweep” of an alley when Sgt. Amos stepped on an IED, resulting in the amputations of his right leg above the knee, his left leg below the knee, and a broken pelvis. He has endured more than a dozen surgeries, spent three and a half months in the hospital, and continues receiving treatment and therapy as an outpatient in California.

Now, through Homes for Our Troops, Matt, his wife Audrie, and their two daughters will receive a specially-adapted home in Mount Hope, Kansas. Sgt. Amos, who is originally from Andale, Kansas, stated, “This home will provide me and my family with the stability we will need to transition from the military to a civilian life. Having counters and cabinets that are accessible from my wheelchair will allow me to assist my wife with household tasks and do the things I would like to do in my own home. The financial security of not having a mortgage will aide in my ability to pursue my dream of owning a business one day and freeing me up to be able to give back to my community. This support is incomprehensible to me.”



On left, Sgt. Matt Amos with Gregg Burden, KCVA Executive Director

Groundbreaking for the home took place on March 30th, and the Amos's plan to move from California to Kansas in August 2013, when the home is expected to be completed.

Homes for Our Troops is a national, non-profit organization that helps severely injured veterans and their families by raising donations including money, building materials, and professional labor, and even coordinates the construction of the specially adapted homes. This gets the whole community involved and working together. Their homes feature single-level, open floor plans, with roll-in showers, roll-under cook tops and sinks, and other accessibility items.

For more information about Homes for Our Troops, or to sign up for project updates on Sgt. Amos's home, go to: www.homesforourtroops.org/amos.

KANSAS VIETNAM WAR ERA MEDALLION PROGRAM



In 2009, the Kansas legislature passed, and the governor signed into law, K. S. A. 73-1238, which created the Vietnam War Era Medallion program. The purpose of the program is to give long overdue recognition to this special group of American heroes, and to express our gratitude for all these individuals have done for Kansas and our Country.

In the two years since the program was funded, the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs (KCVA) has had the privilege of honoring 3,271 veterans with a Medal, Medallion, and Certificate. Veterans eligible for the program can choose to have it awarded at a ceremony or have it mailed directly to them.

Over the past two years, KCVA staff have partnered with community leaders, the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America, in conjunction with various community celebrations, post activities, and other veteran celebrations, to have award ceremonies. To date, the KCVA has participated in 18 celebrations ranging in size from the small post celebrations to one recognizing veterans in the State Capitol, which included a number of veteran legislators. While the KCVA has had success in recognizing many veterans, we know there are many more that deserve this honor.

There are currently three ceremonies scheduled; one in Wichita on May 8th, one in Wakefield on May 14th, and one in Marysville over Memorial Day weekend. If you wish to participate in one of these celebrations, or if you wish to organize a celebration for your community activity or service organization post, please call KCVA at 785-296-3976 to make arrangements.

1. Who may apply?

- A. Any veteran who meets the eligibility requirements listed below is entitled to a medallion, medal, and certificate.
- B. Any spouse or eldest living dependent of a deceased veteran who meets the eligibility requirements listed below is entitled to a medallion, medal, and certificate.
- C. This award is in recognition of the veteran's service. Only one award will be issued in the name of each veteran.

2. Eligibility Requirements:

- A. The veteran must have served on active duty in a United States Military service at any time during the period of February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975.
- B. The veteran is currently a legal resident of Kansas, was a legal resident of Kansas at the time he or she entered or was discharged from military service, or at the time of his or her death.

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KANSAS VIETNAM WAR ERA MEDALLION PROGRAM—CONTINUED

- C. The veteran must have received an honorable discharge, still be in active service in an honorable status, or have been in active service in an honorable status at the time of his or her death.
- D. The Vietnam War Medallion, Medal, and Certificate shall be awarded regardless of whether or not such veteran served within the United States or in a foreign country.

You can get an application at <https://kcva.ks.gov/veteran-services/programs-services> or by calling 785-296-3976.

DISABLED VETERANS AND KANSAS PROPERTY TAX

One question asked frequently by Kansas veterans is, “Does Kansas give any kind of property tax credit for disabled veterans?”

There is a homestead refund available to Kansas homeowners and renters with a household income of up to \$31,300. If you rent, 15% of the rent you pay is considered the property tax amount, and your refund is calculated as a percentage of that amount, depending on your income.

The Kansas homestead refund is up to \$700. If you own your home, the refund is a percentage of the property taxes you pay, based on your household income. The homestead refund was expanded in 2009 to include veterans and surviving spouses. To qualify for the refund, veterans must be Kansas residents who have been honorably discharged and are 50% or more permanently disabled from their military service. This disability must be certified through an Original Veterans Disability Determination Letter or a letter from the regional Veterans Administration. Surviving spouses of deceased disabled veterans continue to be eligible for the homestead refund until they remarry. Your household income, for purposes of determining if you qualify for the homestead refund, generally include all your taxable and nontaxable income, except for 50% of your regular Social Security benefits. Also excluded are disability payments, Veterans disability pensions, food stamps, and child support.

How to claim the homestead refund:

To claim the homestead refund, you need to file [Form K-40H](#) - Homestead Refund Claim, which you can download from the Kansas Department of Revenue website. Disabled veterans must attach their certification of disability to Form K-40H. Form K-40H can be filed electronically using the [Kansas Webfile](#) service.

The KCVA Monthly is an electronic publication of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs. All information contained in this document is believed to be reliable at the time of publication but could be subject to change. If you have any questions or comments, you can access the KCVA Website at <http://kcva.ks.gov/contact-us> and leave your comment there. You may also send an email to Kpeelee@kcva.ks.gov or call 785-296-3976 for all inquiries. Forwarding is authorized.